IV. Resolutions by the Members

A. Acquisition of historical documents of erstwhile Saurashtra States.

(1) Resolution by Professor R.K. Dharaiya

"It is resolved that the historical documents lying in the palaces of former native states of Saurashtra, be procured. The princes concerned may be requested to supply the documents or their copies to the I.H.R.C. The Government of the State of Gujarat may also be requested to help in the process."

Explanatory Note

Many valuable historical documents are lying in the palaces, libraries of some of the native states of Saurashtra. They contain manuscripts, correspondence, notes etc. referring to various aspects of the policy and activities of the State. They are perhaps unused, and if procured will certainly throw new light on the history of native states and their relations with the British Government.

Standing Committee's views:

A similar resolution on the records of the ex-ruling families of the former Princely States of Orissa to ensure proper preservation of their family papers and erstwhile State records and to allow access to scholars for purposes of research was adopted in the 38th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission. The princes were sensitive and not willing to part with their papers, especially to permit their being taken out of their erstwhile states. The problem has to be tackled without wounding their susceptibilities and with due regard to local circumstances.

Efforts should be made for the proper preservation of the papers and their access to scholars for purposes of research rather than on their acquisition. Gujarat State Archives is also making a serious effort through the newly constituted Regional Records Survey Committee to locate and list the documents available with the former princely families and individuals. However, the state Archives can be requested to give this matter priority in their development programme and pursuade the princes to deposit their papers in the state repository. If they are not willing to part with their papers, they should allow a microfilm copy to be prepared for the use of scholars and kept in the state archives.

B. Compilation and publication of selection from Records of the Central and State Governments

(2) Resolution by Dr. V.D.Divekar

"Resolved that the National Archives of India be requested to take up the work of compiling and publishing a complete union catalogue of all the "Selections from Records" of the Government of India and all the State Governments published so far; and that a microfilm copy of the texts of all these Selections be prepared and made available at the National Archives and other centres for the use of research scholars."

Explanatory note

Selections from Records of various governments in India constitute an important source material for economic, social, political and administrative histories